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THE
ARTICLES.
Settlement and Offices
Of the FREE
SOCIETY
OF
TRADERS
IN
PENNSILVANIA:
Agreed upon by divers
MERCHANTS
And OTHERS for the better
Improvement and Government
OF
TRADE
IN THAT
PROVINCE.

LONDON,

Printed for Benjamin Clark in George-Tard in Lombard-street,
Printer to the Society of Pennsylvania, MDC LXXXII.

[The original tract which is here reprinted is a small folio of sixteen pages. The outside measurement of the ruling which surrounds the title-page is $10\frac{1}{4}$ in. $\times$ 6 in. The title has been reproduced by the Photo-Engraving process from the copy in the Historical Society's library.]

THE PREFACE.

READER,

Honest and Industrious Traffique has been the Usage and the Praise of many Nations; And in this all Countries seem Agreed, that their Wealth and Strength are Begun, Continued and Increased by it: A Truth common Experience daily Confirms: For this hath made and is making many Princes and States in the World endeavor to have their Subjects prosper in Trade. The very Indian Princes are now convinced of this Truth, which makes the King of Bantam send his Embassadour here. This is likewise the Reason, why many considerate men have thought fit to joyn themselves in a Society of Trade in Pennsylvania; which after some Difficulty they have Accomplished. But this may be modestly said, It is a very Unusual Society, for it is an Absolute Free One, and in a Free Country: A Society without Oppression; wherein all may be concerned that will; and yet have the same Liberty of private Traffique, as though there were no Society at all. So that this Society is Calculated both to Promote the Publique Good, and to Encourage the Private. And indeed it seems not possible, that Province should be Improved in many Years without it, as it is like to be in a few Years by it. However, it is such a Society, as can do harm to none; but may do good to all: Which a serious perusal of the Government of it will plainly Evince to the considerate and Ingenious. We may add, that 'tis no small Conveniency and Ease to the minds of Planters (happily unacquainted in Trade) that they may have some part of their Estates improving in an united way and Care, whilst they thereby may with less Distraction and more Freedom of Spirit, apply themselves to their particular Plantations. For here a few Hands do the Work of the whole; and by this honest and free Device, the whole will be furnish'd fresh and fresh, from time to time in the nature of a Bank. This Union of Traffique prevents Emulation; for every One is Interested in every Ones prosperity; and the Profit must be greater and surer;

and Navigation, Manufacture and Arts better Improved, than by the Force of private and divided Stocks. To Conclude, 'tis an Enduring Estate, and a lasting as well as certain Credit: a Portion and Inheritance that is Clear and Growing; free from the mischief of Frauds and False Securities; supported by the Concurrent Strength and Care of a great and prudent Body, a kind of perpetual Trustees; the Friend of the Widdow and the Orphan, for it takes no advantage of Minority or Simplicity. These and many more great Advantages Accrew to a Society so Freely Constituted as this appears to be by the ensuing Articles of Agreement, which are Imposed on none, but recommended to all with this assurance, that nothing is hereby intended, but what is consistent with Justice and Prudence; to the best of their Skills that were concerned in the Framing of it: And it is hoped that the Improvements which may accrew by it, will prove of no small advantage to that Country, and Old England from whom it takes its Original.

To which Reader, it may not be improper to add, that this Society is endowed with divers Immunities and Priviledges, by Grant and Charter from William Penn the Governour of that Province.

London, 25. 1st. Mo. called March, 1682.

Nicolas More,
James Claypoole,
Philip Ford.

THE
ARTICLES,
Settlement and Offices
Of the FREE
SOCIETY
OF
TRADERS
IN
PENNSYLVANIA, &c.

IT is Agreed, That the *First General Court* shall be held at *London*, upon the *Twenty Ninth* of the *Third Month* called *May*, 1682. And for ever after, the *General Court* shall be held on the *First Fifth Day* called *Thursday* in the *Ninth Month* (*November*) every Year after in the Capital City in *Pennsylvania*, where *Votes* shall be Received by Letters to the *Society's Secretary* from all that do not appear there personally, for the *chusing* of *Officers*: Which *Votes* shall be Regulated by these following Conditions:

The Free Society of Traders.

IMPRIMIS.

That none in *England* shall have above *One Vote*, whatever *Sum* they *Subscribe*; unless they have a *Share of Land* in *Pennsylvania*, at least *One thousand Acres* of their own, with some *Inhabitants* upon it: In such Cases they shall have their

Votes proportionably to their *Stocks*, as in the following Article.

ARTICLE II.

That all that are *Inhabitants* in *Pennsylvania*, shall have for two *Twenty five* pounds, one *Vote*; and each *Fifty pound* single, one *Vote*; one hundred pounds, two *Votes*; three hundred pounds, three *Votes*, and none more.

ARTICLE III.

That the *Book* of *Subscriptions* shall be open here in *England*, till the *twenty ninth* day of the *fourth Month* called *June*, One thousand six hundred eighty two, and no longer. And in *Pennsylvania* from the *Arrival* of the *first Ship* belonging to the *Society* for six *Months* after, paying *fifteen per Cent. Sterling* in Consideration of the *Risco* Run by the *Society* by such as *Subscribe* within *thirty daies*, and for every *Month* after one *per Cent.* to be added to value of the *Cargo*.

ARTICLE IV.

That none shall *Subscribe* in the *Societys Stock* less than *twenty five pounds*. Yet if *five* Joyn together, and make up the *twenty five pounds* (provided it be *subscribed* in one man's name) it shall be *accepted* of but in that Name only.

ARTICLE V.

That at the *first General Court* or *Assembly* held as above-said (*viz.* the *twenty ninth* of the *third Month* alias *May*, 1682.) all the *Subscribers* here in *England* shall Confirm their *Subscriptions*, which shall be by the depositing *five per Cent.* as a part of that, which shall then be *Agreed* on to be paid *within a Month* after. And at that time shall be *Chosen* the *Officers* of the *Society*, *viz.* The *President*, the *Deputy*, the *Treasurer*, the *Secretary* and *twelve Committee-men*, whereof any *Five* and the *President* or his *Deputy* shall make a *Quorum*.

ARTICLE VI.

That all the *Committee-men* shall have but one *Vote* a piece in the *Committee*, whatever their *Stock* be; and the *President*

or the *Deputy*, if the *Votes* be *Equal*, shall have the *Casting Voice*.

ARTICLE VII.

That at *seven years* end, from the time of *shutting the Book* in *Pennsilvania*, it shall be *opened* again for *New Subscribers*; and so to *Continue* for *every seven years*; a due *Valuation* of the *Stock* being first made by the *Committee*, that so every one may *Subscribe* according to the *Valuation* then *Agreed* on.

ARTICLE VIII.

That *Two hundred Servants* be sent away the *first Year*, of such *Trades* and *Capacities* as may be most for the *benefit* of the *Society*; which is to be *Adjudged* by the *Committee*.

ARTICLE IX.

That it shall be *Lawful* for any one that has *Subscribed*, to add to their *Subscription* before the *Month* is out, what *Sum* they please.

ARTICLE X.

That none shall be *President*, *Deputy* or *Treasurer*, that have not *five thousand Acres* of *Land* in *Pennsilvania* of their own, and *one hundred pound* in the *Societies Stock*.

ARTICLE XI.

That the *General Officers* shall continue for the *First seven years*, and then a new *Election* shall be made, they being fixed in their *Abode* in the *Society's-House*, there to act for the *Society*, without change of their power in *Priviledges*, except they do *Commit* any act *destructive* or *prejudicial* to the *Real Interest* of the *Society*, which first is to be proved sufficiently in the *Court of Assistants*; and then the *Offender* or *Offenders* are to be dismissed, and the *Court of Assistants* to chuse another, who is to *Continue* till the *General Court*; which *Court of Assistants* shall yearly be Chosen and added to the *Committee*.

ARTICLE XII.

That the *President* shall Call together the *Court of Assistants* to help and advise in any Emergent occasions relating to the *Society*, as *To receive more Money, To make a Dividend, To chuse new Officers in Case of Death, To settle new Factories, To enter upon Mines, Build Ships, &c.*

ARTICLE XIII.

The *Committee* shall chuse all *Inferiour Officers*, as *Store-House-Keepers, Clerks, Book-Keepers, Factors*, at home and abroad; then they shall direct, what shall be *Planted, Built, &c.*

ARTICLE XIV.

That all *Forfeitures*, that shall arise, shall be Employed upon the *Improvement* of a *parcel* of *Land* allotted for the *maintenance* of such their *Wives* and *Children*, who have been *disabled* in the *service* of the *Society*.

ARTICLE XV.

That the *Society's Books, Patents, Records* and *original Papers* be kept in a *Convenient* place in the *House* under *three Locks* and *Keys*, one whereof shall be kept by the *President* or *Deputy*, the other by the *Treasurer*, the *third* by the *Eldest Committee-man*.

ARTICLE XVI.

That these *Books, Papers* and *Patent, &c.* shall not be *Intrusted* in the hand of any single person for longer space than to *transcribe* any part of it in the *day time*, and in the *House* before some *one* or *more* appointed by the *Committee*; and that the *Book-keeper* shall only have *Copies* of them, which may be *Viewed* or *Perused* *once a Month* by any *Member* of the *Society*, who desires it: *All Originals* to be kept as before.

ARTICLE XVII.

That *Security* shall be taken of the *Treasurer* and of all *Servants* relating to the *Society*, that is, such as have any *Trust*

Committed unto them, as *Agent, Store-keepers, Ship-Masters, Clerks, Overseers and Servants*, &c. and those to be given by Persons of known Honesty and Estate. And those *servants* shall be bound to *keep the secrets of the House*, that is, not to give Intelligence to any Person, no, not to any *Member* of the *Society* (without leave first obtained publickly in the *Committee*) upon *forfeiture* of their *security*.

ARTICLE XVIII.

That if the *Society* should receive *Blacks* for *servants*, they shall make them *free* at *fourteen years* end, upon Consideration that they shall give into the *Society's Ware-house* *two thirds* of what they are Capable of producing on such a *parcel* of *Land* as shall be allotted them by the *Society*, with a *stock* and necessary *Tools*, as shall be *Adjudged* by the *Society's* Surveyor. And if they will not accept of these *terms*, they shall be *servants* till they will accept it.

ARTICLE XIX.

That no *Mineral Undertaking* shall be begun by the *Committee* without the approbation of the *General Assembly*.

ARTICLE XX.

That the *Committee* shall at every *Yearly Meeting* of the *General Court* discover the *Incouragement* or *Discouragement* they meet with in the Course of their *Trade* both at *home* and *abroad*.

ARTICLE XXI.

That the *Society* may set up *two or more General Factories* in *Pennsilvania*, one upon *Cheasapeak-Bay*, and the other upon *Delaware River*, or where else the *Committee* shall see necessary for the more speedy Conveyance of *Goods* in the *Country* and *Mary-land*: but that the *Government* of the *whole* be in the *Capital City* of *Pennsilvania*.

ARTICLE XXII.

That the *Society* shall be *Assisting* to the *Indians* in their settling in *Towns* and other places, both by *Advice* and *Artificers*.

ARTICLE XXIII.

That there shall be *Twenty four Assistants* added to the *Committee*, whereof *twenty* and the *President* or *Deputy* makes a *Quorum*.

ARTICLE XXIV.

That the *First Assembly* in the Province of *Pennsilvania* shall be desired to *Ratifie* the *Patent Granted* by the *Governour* to this *Society* by an *Act of Assembly*.

ARTICLE XXV.

That all the *Members* of the *Committee* and *Court of Assistants* shall have timely and sufficient notice and *summons* in writing left at their *Dwelling*, of every intended *Court*, to prevent *Indirect* and *unjust Proceedings*.

ARTICLE XXVI.

That all and every one, who have *subscribed* any *sum* in the *Society's-stock*, and shall not after the *second summons* bring in their *second Payment*, shall be incapable of disposing of that *part* in the *stock* before disbursed; but the *Society* shall dispose of the same unto such who will fulfill the *Agreement* in all *payments*; they only being Capable of Receiving their *first Penny* or disbursement. Alwaies excepted such, who through any *Calamities* have been reduced to *Poverty*, whereby they are Rendred *Incapable* to fulfill the same; that then the thing being proved before a *Committee*, they shall have power to *sell* the same to the *best Advantage*. And as this is *Agreed* on for the *second payment*, so it is of *all others*, if there be more.

ARTICLE XXVII.

That there shall be in *England* a *Chief Agent*, Superiour to all *Agents* or *Factors* belonging to the said *Society*, that are in *Europe*, unto whom the *Society* shall direct their *Letters* and consign their *Goods*: He shall have a *Council* of *six Factors*, one of which shall be his *Deputy*. This *Council* shall, with him, Reside in *London*; and shall on all occasions meet to Advise

together, how to dispose of the *Society's Goods*, and buy such *Goods* as the *Society* shall direct to be bought, to Execute all other Orders, as shall be required of him or them. And to give every *Factor* his *Commission*, how to proceed in what pertains unto his place: So that all and every one of them shall *Act* by the *Advice* of the *Chief Agent*, and he by the *Order* of the *Committee* in *Pennsylvania*; All these being *Chosen* by the *General Assembly*, they giving good and sufficient *security* to the *Society* for their *true* and *faithful service*.

ARTICLE XXVIII.

That the *President, Deputy, Secretary, Treasurer, Surveyor* and all the *Servants* of the *Society* shall bring into the *Society's Ware-house*, what *Peltry* they buy of the *Indians* in their *Respective Plantations* with their own *private Goods*: This shall be *Entred* in the *Books* of the several *Offices* to prevent *Fraud*. Those *Goods* shall be sent over with the *Society's Goods*, and shall have what *Return* they will for the same, allowing to the *Society, Freight, Factorage, &c.*

ARTICLE XXIX.

That it shall be *Lawful* for *all*, who will bring their *Goods* to the *Society's Ware-house*, so to do and to have the same *Returns*, as they shall desire. This being *granted* and *Allowed*, will bring in most of the *Countries Goods* in the *Society's* hands, which will in time prove the *great Advantage* of the *Society*; and most *Eminently* to the *Planters*, who are not able to send into *England*, where possibly they may be deceived by their *Factors* or *Attorneys*, they having in the *Society* the greater *security* Imaginable for their *Effects*.

Some of the *Officers* and *Offices* for the SOCIETY, Viz. *President, Deputy, Treasurer, Agent, Secretary, Surveyor, Twelve Committee-men, Chyrurgion, Factors, Clerks, Overseers, Messengers, Porters, Butchers, Water-men, Carr-men, &c.*

The *Four Offices* for the Society.

The Secretary Office,

TO this Office shall belong the *Book-Keeper, the Factors, Chyrurgeon, Clerk of all Offices, Messengers, Overseers, Water-men.* The *Secretary* shall be alwaies ready to receive *Orders* of the *President* or *Deputy* for the Execution of all *Warrants* to be Issued out abroad, to write all *Letters, &c.* for the *Society's* Service, and to direct the *Plantations* in their Duties, as the *President* and *Courts* are Agreed on to be done: As when any *Ships* are going Out, then to write to *Factors* abroad, &c. When any *Factors* are wanting *Supplies of Goods*, to give *Warrants* in the *Treasury-Office* for the same under the *Presidents* own Hand and Seal, or his *Deputy*; and nothing delivered without this Method. And when *Goods* are brought in, then to take *Account* of the same, and give an *Account* to the *President* of them, and Enter them in that Office also. If any *Servant Dyeth*, to receive Information of it, and make Record. If any *Run away*, to receive Information, and take Order of the *President* about it, &c. If any be *Sick*, to Issue *Warrants* for their help by the *Presidents Order, &c.* If *Cattle Dye*, to Record it; If any be *Increased*, to Record the *Place, Kind, Number.* To receive every Week a particular *Account* of all *Overseers, Factors, &c.* of all *Increases* and *Decreases of Trade, &c.*

The Treasury Office,

TO this Office shall belong the TREASURER, *Two Clerks, Porters, Butchers, Water-men, Carr-men, Chyrurgeon, Husbandmen, Handicrafts, &c.* every one of them giving *Account* to the *Treasurer* of their *Works*, and all to be Recorded in the *Treasury-Office*, and to be Transmitted into the *Secretary's-Office* every *Seven* daies, and all those *Officers* and *Servants* to be directed in their Proceedings by *Warrants* from

the *President* or his *Deputy*, and nothing to be delivered out without the same, to prevent *Deceit*, &c. And that there shall be *Two Ware-houses*, one for *Exportation*, and the other for *Importation*: Unto each of them shall belong a *Clerk* to keep *Journals* of *Goods Come In* and *Gone Out*; and to keep the *Warrants* from the *President* for their *Security*. And that if any *Goods* are received in, and not *Recorded* in the *Secretary* and *Treasure-Office* within *two daies*, it shall be a *Forfeiture* of such *Penalty* thought fit to be *Imposed* by the *Court of Assistants*.

The Surveyor's Office,

TO this *Office* shall belong the *Surveyor*, an *Assistant*, a *Clerk*, a *Searcher*.

This *Surveyor* shall *View* all *Ships*, and what is thereunto belonging, whether fit to be made use of for the *Society's Service* or no; and make *Report* to the *President*. He shall *Oversee* all *Overseers*, *Servants*, their *Works*, and make *Record* of them all, giving *Information* of all things in the *Secretary-Office*, and to the *President* or his *Deputy*; and keeping *Record* in his *Office* of the same. He shall see all *Goods Shipped Safely* and others *Landed*; He shall view all *Ware-houses*, their *Goods* that they be kept well, &c. That all *Warrants* from the *President*, be duly put in *Execution*, *Survey* all *Entries* and *Invoyces*, all *Buildings*, all *Cattles*, &c. that the *Society* may not suffer by any; keeping a *Journal* of all things which are every *seven daies* to be *Compared* with the *Secretary-Office*, where all things are to be *Recorded*. And *Record* being duly made, all the *Books* to be *signed* by the *President* or his *Deputy*, and afterwards to stand for good and *Just Actings* in the *Court of Committce* and *Assistants*: And this being passed, never more to be recalled.

The Miner's Office,

TO this *Office* shall belong an *Agent*, *Clerks*, *Miners*, *Refiners*, *Brick-makers*, *Tile-makers*, *Potters*, *Lime-burners*, &c.

The *Agent* shall daily receive *Informations* from the *Miners*, &c. of what is done, and make *Record* of it in his *Office*, and shall be *Signed* by the *Clerk* and himself. Then to send it to

the *Secretary-Office* every seven daies there to be *Recorded*; the *President* or *Deputy* having approved the same. And the *Agent* shall Answer for all *Defaults* and *Wrong* done to the *Society* in any of the things, that are under his *Custody*, until they are *Recorded* and *Received* in the *Custody* of the *Treasurer*.

These are the Heads, upon which the *Society* is to be *Governed*, and the *Officers* by which all is *Administred* and secured from *Fraud* and *Deceit*. What further is necessary for the same, must be left to the Wisdom of the *President* and *Court of Assistants*, who in time may give an *Exact Account* of other things relating thereunto.

For the Conveniency of such who are desirous to *Subscribe* to *The Stock of this Society*, if they please to *Apply* themselves to *Philip Ford* in *Bow-Lane* near *Cheap-side*, there their *Subscriptions* may be *Entred*.

THE END.